
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Election Board:

Oklahoma State Election Board
P. O. Box 53156
Oklahoma City, OK 73152
(405) 521-2391 (voice)
(405) 521-6457 (fax)
www.state.ok.us/~elections/

If the Oklahoma State Election Board is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Oklahoma?

If you are a resident of Oklahoma, you cannot vote while you are incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction.

If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Oklahoma, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

Once your conviction has become final and the maximum time set forth in your sentence has expired, your right to vote is automatically restored. For example, if you were sentenced to two years imprisonment and your conviction became final on January 1, 2001, you would become eligible to register and vote effective January 1, 2003.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

Oklahoma applies the same rules whether you were convicted of a state or federal crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

The same rules apply even if the conviction occurred in another state.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Oklahoma's other voter registration requirements?

To vote in Oklahoma, you must be:

- at least 18 years old
- a U.S. citizen
- a resident of Oklahoma

However, if you have been adjudged by a court to be an incapacitated person, or a partially incapacitated person prohibited from voting, you are ineligible to vote.

When do I need to register to vote?

You can submit your registration application at any time. However, in order to vote in an election, you must register more than 24 days prior to the election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Oklahoma, including your County Election Board, local post office, libraries, tag agencies, and many other public locations.

Registration may also be available at other state service agencies. Contact the County Election Board to find out which service agencies provide voter registration.